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*Grace F. Napolitano*

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
32<sup>nd</sup> District of California**

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June 4, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Chairman Pai and Secretary Chao:

I am writing with great concern over the decades of mismanagement, wasted taxpayer investment, lack of results in implementing connected vehicle technology, and the lost opportunity of valuable unused spectrum. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) must urgently work together to come up with a strategy, timeline and solutions for addressing the needs of growing WiFi demand while implementing a fully operable transportation safety communications system.

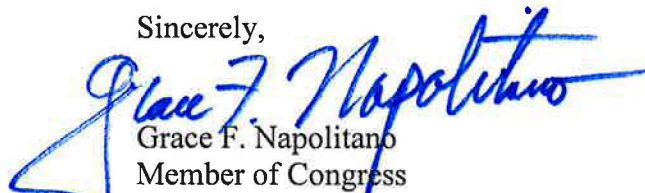
The lack of progress and divergent views on the appropriate auto safety technology is unacceptable. The DOT and FCC should take a leadership role in working with industry to develop an effective interoperable technology that provides auto safety solutions the American public have been waiting for.

The FCC and DOT should also explore ways to use the valuable 5.9 GHz band to meet the growing public demand for WiFi without harming auto safety. WiFi is becoming one of the most important tools Americans use in their daily lives for communication, business development, and safety. With regards to safety, WiFi is used for personal security, home security, business security, and national security. WiFi is used by police departments, fire departments, the federal government and many other significant safety and security services that all Americans rely on. The current lack of spectrum devoted to WiFi is creating congestion and reducing WiFi performance which could harm economic productivity and the vital safety uses of WiFi.

I respectfully request that the DOT and the FCC work with industry stakeholders to come up with solutions for installing an auto safety communications platform quickly while also addressing the growing demand for WiFi use.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Federal Communications Commission moving forward in the 5.9 GHz proceeding.

To say the least, substantial time has passed since the FCC initially granted Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) vehicle-to-vehicle technology experimentation in this band in the 1990s. DSRC has made little progress since then—its deployment is meager at best, only one automaker currently supports it, and no major models are scheduled to use DSRC in the near future. Indeed, the rest have jettisoned the failed technology of DSRC, focusing their efforts on the development of cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) automotive safety technologies.

Meanwhile, consumer demand for applications and services that rely on unlicensed spectrum has exploded. The technological standard for unlicensed use of the 5.9 GHz band, called 802.11ac, has long been established. The band below it is already used for Wi-Fi, and the Commission is exploring unlicensed opportunities in the 6 GHz band above it.

It is long past time for rethinking the highest valued use of this public resource. That is why I support a comprehensive conversation about how to proceed in the context of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

Thank you for sharing your views on this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai